

ABSTRACT

5 An absorbable biocompatible polymeric matrix is
described. The matrix has a continuous phase that is
preferably amorphous. The matrix also has a disperse
10 phase of low melting biocompatible material that acts as
scattering centers for light and melts at a temperature
lower than the continuous phase of the matrix. This
matrix is especially useful in a variety of medical
15 devices. When this matrix is heated to about the
melting temperature of the dispersed phase the matrix
undergoes a visual change. This provides a visual cue
to a surgeon using the medical devices as to when the
device can be safely shaped or manipulated without
20 imparting undue stress to the device. As the medical
device cools below the temperature at which it may be
safely deformed the matrix resumes its original
appearance signalling that it may no longer be safely
shaped or manipulated.

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